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THE SOURCES OF TWO SIMILES IN CHAPMAN'S
THE REVENGE OF BUSSY D'AMBOIS.

IN Chapman's *The Revenge of Bussy D'Ambois*, Act II.
 Sc. i., occur the following lines :

And as the foolish poet that still writ
 All his most self-loved verse in paper royal,
 Of parchment ruled with lead, smoothed with the pumice,
 Bound richly up, and strung with crimson strings ;
 Never so blest as when he writ and read
 The ape-loved issue of his brain, and never
 But joying in himself, admiring ever ;
 Yet in his works behold him, and he showed
 Like to a ditcher, so, etc.

It does not seem to have been noted that this is from
 Catullus 22 :

Suffenus iste, Vare, quem probe nosti,
 Homo est uenustus et dicax et urbanus,
 Idemque longe plurimos facit uersus.
 Puto esse ego illi milia aut decem aut plura
 Perscripta, nec sic, ut fit, in palimpsesto
 Relata : chartae regiae, noui libri,
 Noui umbilici, lora, rubra membrana,
 Derecta plumbo et pumice omnia aequata,
 Haec cum legas tu, bellus ille et urbanus
 Suffenus unus caprimulgus aut fossor
 Rursus uidetur : tantum abhorret et mutat.
 Hoc quid putemus esse? Qui modo scurra
 Aut si quid hac re tritius uidebatur,
 Idem infaceto est infacetior rure
 Simul poemata attigit, neque idem unquam
 Aequae est beatus ac poema cum scribit :
 Tum gaudet in se tamque se ipse miratur, etc.

Chapman's original must have put the comma after *rubra*,
 instead of after *lora* ; cf. his 'crimson strings.'

The version by Robinson Ellis is in the metre of the original :

Suffenus, he, dear Varus, whom, methinks, you know,
Has sense, a ready tongue to talk, a wit urbane,
And writes a world of verses, on my life no less.

Ten times a thousand he, believe me, ten or more,
Keeps fairly written ; not on any palimpsest,
As often, entered, paper extra-fine, sheets new,
New every roller, red the strings, the parchment-case
Lead-ruled, with even pumice all alike complete.

You read them : our choice spirit, our refined rare wit,
Suffenus, O no ditcher e'er appeared more rude,
No looby coarser ; such a shock, a change is there.

How then resolve this puzzle? He the birthday-wit,
For so we thought him — keener yet, if aught is so —
Becomes a dunce more boorish e'en than hedge-born boor,
If e'er he faults on verses ; yet in heart is then
Most happy, writing verses, happy past compare,
So sweet his own self, such a world at home finds he.

Just before this simile of Chapman's occurs another :

A man may well
Compare them to those foolish great-spleened camels,
That to their high heads begged of Jove horns higher ;
Whose most uncomely and ridiculous pride
When he had satisfied, they could not use,
But where they went upright before, they stooped,
And bore their heads much lower for their horns.

This was apparently suggested by the Æsopic Fable 184 (cf. Halm's *Fabulae Æsopicae Collectae*, p. 93); the latter is practically identical with Fable 8 of Avianus ; Jacobs, *Fables of Æsop* I. 260, gives a full list of parallels. However, the fable has been modified, either by Chapman himself, or by some one from whom he has borrowed ; for, in the older versions cited, Jove not only declines to grant the request of the camels, but deprives them of a portion of their ears.

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